

# THE STERNFELD STAR

## BARONY OF STERNFELD

### NOVEMBER 2009, A.S. XLV

THE STERNFELD STAR  
LISS CAPELLO, DEP. CHRONICLER  
(ODILE DE BRIENNE)  
1208 HOOVER LANE  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46260-2830



In this issue:  
Officer Reports!  
Next Business Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2009  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
Everyone welcome—No experience necessary!

## ☞ CALENDAR ☞

--Local and selected events only--

Consult **The Pale** or [www.midrealm.org](http://www.midrealm.org) for complete event listings.

### November 2009

#### 3, 10, 17, 24 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**

- 6-8 Bloodmoon {Cuil Cholium} [Vernon, IN]  
7 All Soul's Day {Vanished Wood} [Roselle, IL]  
Fall Harvest {Canton of Dun Traigh} [Hamilton, MI]  
Rivenstar's Second Annual Day of Dance {Barony of Rivenstar} [Lafayette, IN]  
13-15 Crystal Ball XXVI {Barony of Shattered Crystal} [Dupo, IL]  
14 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Feast of Winter Nights {Shire of Afonlyn} [Muncie, IN]  
Grand Tourney {Cynnabar} [Ann Arbor, MI]  
19 **Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm**  
20-22 A Plague on Your Houses!  
21 Bardic Madness XI {Barony of the Cleftlands} [Euclid, OH]  
Toys for Tots Tourney {Barony of White Waters} [New Carlisle, IN]

### December 2009

#### 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**

- 5 Boar's Head 2009 {Caer Antherth Mawr} [West Bend, WI]  
Christmas Tourney 38 {Barony of the Flame} [Elizabethtown, KY]  
Midrealm Heraldic and Scribal Symposium {Shire of Mugmort} [Hilliard, OH]  
Toys Tourney {Canton of Iron Oak} [New Lothrop, MI]  
12 Wassail {Riding of Hawkland Moor} [Holly, MI]  
Youth Fighting Symposium {Shire of Greyhope} [LaPorte, IN]  
Yule Feast 09 {Canton of Hrothgeirfjodr} [Toledo, OH]  
17 **Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm**

### January 2010

#### 5, 12, 19, 26 **Fighter Practice, Krannert Family Center**

- 9 **Holiday Court {Barony of Sternfeld} [Tipton, IN]**  
Pentamere 12<sup>th</sup> Night {Barony of Roaring Wastes} [Detroit, MI]  
Twelfth Night {Havenholde} [Urbana, OH]  
16 12<sup>th</sup> Night Celtic Fair {Tree-Girt-Sea} [Chicago, IL]  
16-17 Winter Revel {Canton of Three Walls} [Ionia, MI]  
21 **Business Meeting, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 6:45-9pm**  
23 A Tudor Christmas {Barony of Middle Marches} [Columbus, OH]  
Al Hafla – A Winter Oasis {Incipient Shire of Ballachlagan} [Wheeling, WV]  
Festival of Maidens XXXVII {Wurm Wald} [Urbana, IL]  
Winter Revel {Shire of Rivenvale} [Youngstown, OH]  
30 A Festival of Fools {Barony of Cleftlands} [Parma, OH]  
**Better War Through Archery {Barony of Sternfeld} [Indianapolis, IN]**  
Pentamere Academy of Defense Rnd 4 {Ealdnordwuda} [Lansing, MI]

## ☞ WHERE TO FIND US ☞

- ❖ FIGHTER PRACTICE - Every Tuesday, 6:30-9 pm. **Krannert Family Center, 605 S. High School Road.** Contact Seneschal Lady Katrina (Katrina Pogue), [katrinasternfeld@gmail.com](mailto:katrinasternfeld@gmail.com).
- ❖ BUSINESS MEETING - Third Thursdays, 6:45-9 pm. **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2601 E. Thompson Road.** Contact Seneschal Lady Katrina (Katrina Pogue), [katrinasternfeld@gmail.com](mailto:katrinasternfeld@gmail.com).
- ❖ DEAD LANGUAGES CLUB - Second Wednesdays, 7-9 pm. Master John and Mistress Leanore's house, 1626 Marlborough Lane. Contact Master John & Mistress Leanore (John & Ellie Wright), 317-872-7216, [elliepel@aol.com](mailto:elliepel@aol.com).
- ❖ OPEN HOUSE/READING NIGHTS - Every Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Master John and Mistress Leanore's house, 1626 Marlborough Lane. Contact Master John and Mistress Leanore (John and Ellie Wright), 317-872-7216, [elliepel@aol.com](mailto:elliepel@aol.com).
- ❖ DANCE PRACTICE – First and third Mondays, 6:30-9 pm. **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2601 E. Thompson Road.** Contact Lady Brigide Rose von Metten, [wulfarose@yahoo.com](mailto:wulfarose@yahoo.com).
- ❖ COOKS' GROUP - First and third Sundays, 4-6 pm. Abot Johann's house, 3901 Marrison Place. Contact Abot Johann (Marcus Loidolt), [mjloidolt@yahoo.com](mailto:mjloidolt@yahoo.com).
- ❖ ARTS & SCIENCE NIGHT - Last Thursday evenings, at **Victory Memorial United Methodist Church, 1932 Woodlawn Avenue.** Contact Abot Johann (Marcus Loidolt), [mjloidolt@yahoo.com](mailto:mjloidolt@yahoo.com).
- ❖ ARCHERY PRACTICE – Every Wednesday, 6:30-9 pm. **7800 Records St. Suite B.** Contact Lord Bran (Kelly Burgess), [kburgess1@comcast.net](mailto:kburgess1@comcast.net).
- ❖ MONTHLY BARDIC CIRCLES AND RANDOM POST-REVELS - scheduled sporadically but enthusiastically. Contact Lady Floriana (Daisy Roberts Blair), 317-280-1930, or Lady Lucia (Kathi Coutinho), 317-293-0983.
- ❖ GILDED COSTUMERS - First Thursdays (& occasional weekends), 7-9 pm. Various locations. Contact THL Odette (Paula Ryan), 317-996-4630, [odettedamboise@gmail.com](mailto:odettedamboise@gmail.com).

Barony of Sternfeld: [www.midrealm.org/sternfeld](http://www.midrealm.org/sternfeld)

Middle Kingdom: [www.midrealm.org](http://www.midrealm.org)

Society for Creative Anachronism: [www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

Sternfeld Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sternfeld/>

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# BARONAGE AND OFFICERS

<b>BARON &amp; BARONESS</b> Master Torquil MacGillavrey Mistress Moira MacGillavrey (Tom & Polly Redmond) 417 N. East Street, Tipton, IN 46072 Moira: 765-860-2410 macgillavrey@gmail.com Torquil: 765-346-8878 torquilmac@comcast.net	<b>SENESCHAL</b> Lady Katrina of Sternfeld (Katrina Pogue) 121 Herman Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202 katrinasternfeld@gmail.com
<b>CHATELAINE</b> THL Liesl von Metten (Diana O'Brien) 3310 Acacia Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46214 317-439-5194 dianaobr@comcast.net	<b>CLERK OF THE ROSTER</b> Lady Odile de Brienne (Liss Capello) 1208 Hoover Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46260 317-313-8098 odileendormie@gmail.com
<b>HERALD</b> THL Tobias Alan MacKenzie (Tobi Elmore) 3674 Bluff Road, Indianapolis, IN 46217 317-788-0950 mac@indy.net	<b>SIGNET</b> Lady Cynnedda damos Cladebos (Kimmetha Steele) 173 W. Jo Jo Lane, Nineveh, IN 46164 ksteele@hisadaamerica.com
<b>KNIGHT'S MARSHAL</b> Lord Ulfr Imason (Greg Capello) 1208 Hoover Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46260 317-450-1033 gregorycapello@gmail.com	<b>RAPIER MARSHAL</b> Lord Bjorn Arnaldsson (Nathan Formo) 8906 Depot Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46217 ryutenno@hotmail.com
<b>MINISTER OF ARTS &amp; SCIENCES</b> Abot Johann von Metten, OL (Marcus Loidolt) 3901 Marrison Place, Indianapolis, IN 46226 317-545-5704 mjloidolt@yahoo.com	<b>ARCHERY CAPTAIN</b> Forester Bran vo Lough Derg (Kelly Burgess) 6914 N. Laredo Drive, McCordsville, IN 46055 317-336-6912 kburgess1@comcast.net
<b>CHRONICLER</b> THL Odette d'Amboise (Paula Ryan) 9605 N. Judson Drive, Mooresville, IN 46158 317-996-4630 odettedamboise@gmail.com	<b>WEB MINISTER</b> Captain Dyderich Wolfhart (Earl Ryan) 9605 N. Judson Drive, Mooresville, IN 46158 317-996-4630 dyderich@gmail.com
<b>EXCHEQUER</b> Lady Austorga de Clermont (Debbi Sponsler) 7539 Eagle Valley Pass, Indianapolis, IN 46214 631-484-5892 pundora@yahoo.com	<b>PROPERTY MASTER</b> Lady Talia Wynterscale (Tina Wanzer) 10137 Heather Hills Road, Indianapolis, IN 46229 tarmala@yahoo.com
<b>CHIURGEON</b> Lady Aelwyn de Clare (Stephanie Ellis) 1613 Library Blvd. Apt A, Greenwood, IN 46142 Cell 317-331-8536 Home 317-300-1820 aelwyndeclare@ymail.com	<b>MINISTER OF YOUTH</b> <b>OPEN</b> Call for Candidates – please contact the Seneschal or Baron & Baroness if you are interested.



## FROM THE BARON AND BARONESS

Unto Our Great Populace,

Greetings during this beautiful harvest season. First and foremost this month we send a hearty congratulations to Lady Colette and Lord Antonio for a job well done as autocrats of Grand Pageant. They even kept their cool in the face of explosions, literally. Congratulations also to everyone who volunteered to make Grand Pageant the success it was. We had many compliments, including His Majesty pledging to return, if possible, next year, and Her Highness sending a letter of Thanks to us and the group which we will be sharing, passing it around at meetings we attend.

Congratulations also to everyone who received awards at Grand Pageant. Your work has been noticed. Also, thank you to those of you who wrote in for people to get those awards. Taking the time out of your day to make sure that someone is recognized for the work that they do shows a true spirit of community.

Next, we'd like to welcome all of you who are new to our fair lands. It is heartening to see so many new faces joining us each week. If we haven't met yet, please find us and introduce yourselves. We love getting to know all of you. If there are questions we can answer, please don't be afraid to ask. We like nothing better than sharing our love for the SCA.

In service,

**BARON TORQUIL AND BARONESS MOIRA**

### BARONIAL COURT LIST FROM GRAND PAGEANT:

Aldo Schmidt	Yeoman
Ernesta	Yeoman
Guen filia Mattock	Yeoman
Alan	Yeoman
Kabiri Dalihab	Yeoman
Dyderich Wolfhart	Orion's Belt
Margaret O'Monaghan	Winged Crescent
Erszebet Szubota	Nova
Karl von Tyson	Nova
Kemma Quatremaire	Nova
Moira Breabadair	Nova

FROM THE KNIGHT'S MARSHAL



It has come to my attention that when one's wife is writing the *Star*, one will be writing an officer report!

Since the end of summer has triggered the end of the melee season, there has been a downturn in the number of people attending heavy practice. This is an unfortunate yearly phenomenon, for which I know no immediate remedy. It is doubly unfortunate because there are a few beginning fighters who need to gain experience with a wide variety of opponents.

Aside from that, the practices have been going smoothly.

I must give a tip of the hat to Dyderich for running the Grand Pageant tournaments, which in my mind went very well indeed. It was truly an entertaining day both for the fighters, and more importantly for the ladies of the gallery (or so it seemed from the lists). I could be wrong but I think even His Majesty cracked a smile at the antics.

In Service,  
LORD ULFR IMASON

FROM THE RAPIER MARSHAL



Things are going well for the rapier fighters. We are averaging as many new fighters as experienced fighters right now and it's good to see more than 2 or 3 fighters each week. Our new fighters are also improving very quickly and everyone seems to be having a lot of fun. After a slight decline in numbers for the monthly Throwdown we seem to be increasing again the past couple of months.

LORD BJORN ARNALDSSON

CIBITS

☪

The first Tuesday of every month at Fighter Practice is also Garb Night. Everyone is encouraged to wear their garb while they are socializing.

☪

Costumer's Group will meet Thursday, November 5, from 7 – 9 pm at the Panera Bread at Willow Lake West (2902 W 86th St # 220, Indianapolis: on 86<sup>th</sup> Street just east of Michigan Road. This is in the strip mall with Trader Joe's grocery store.) The topic is an overview of fashion throughout the SCA period.

☪

The Cooks' Group and Ars Rustica Group will meet Sunday, November 15, from 4 – 6 pm at Abot Meister Johann von Metten's house (3901 Marrison Place, Indianapolis). The topic is sausage.

☪

Dance Practice will meet on Monday, November 2 and 16, from 6:30 – 9 pm at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (2601 E. Thompson Road). Everyone is welcome to join.

☪

The Armor Workshop previously scheduled for Sunday, November 8 has been cancelled. Currently there are no other workshops scheduled, but please stay tuned for new dates and times in the coming months.

☪

Have you nominated anyone for a Kingdom award lately? If you know someone whom you think is worthy of an award, nominate them! Our King and Queen depend on Their populace to submit nominations to assist Them in bestowing awards where they are deserved. It's easy to do, and gives you another great reason to attend Court. Check out <http://www.midrealm.org/op/recommend/> today.

If a gaffe does happen, don't worry over it; just brush it off with "I'm sorry. Nice to meet you! I'm \_\_\_\_\_."

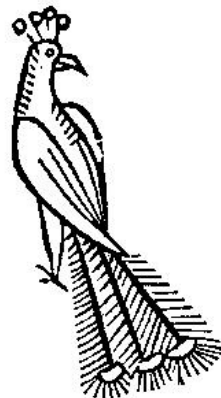
If someone does take offense or seems to react unenthusiastically to an opening you make, it may just be shyness, uncertainty, recent illness or hardship, an off-day, or perhaps lack of people skills on the other person's part, not anything you said or did. Please make the extra effort, at least once, to make him/her feel welcome and noticed. Sometimes 'veteran' members need the extra attention as much as a newcomer!

### Something *everyone* can do

Your Chatelaine (me) will endeavor to have some newcomer material available at each fighter's practice and Sternfeld event, like the *Known Worlde Handbook*, the *Pale*, *Star* issues (which includes info on our special interest groups), business cards, etc. But, though the Chatelaine's main function is to *help* newcomers feel welcome in the group and steer them to the appropriate resources, no chatelaine, no matter how good, can single-handedly make all newcomers feel like they belong to the group. That's a role *all* members have to help fill.

The first paragraph in this article talked about surviving the 'newbie' phase to become contented members. That didn't happen because you had one or two positive experiences with the Chatelaine; that happened because the group made you feel welcomed and valued. '*The group*' is simply you and you and you and me.

Even newcomers can help other newcomers feel welcome—who better to know what that 'newness' feels like?!



## FROM THE ARTS AND SCIENCES MINISTER



Benedicte,

A good harvest and slaughtering moon to all of you!

As A&S minister, my job is to encourage and TRY to keep tabs on what all cool stuff you guys are making and doing! In this way I can try to make sure that information gets disseminated to all interested parties. This means if you want to learn the art of Falconry, or Brewing, or various forms of smithing or cheesemaking or how to make a proper mud ball in Pisa during the 12th century, well I can TRY to help put you in touch with others who are doing or have done the same thing!

Currently we have just finished with two major events in which our Arts and Sciences really shone! The first was The Fishers Renaissance Faire where our cooks, scribes, metal workers, wood workers, textile workers, dyers, spinners and dairyfolk all got a wonderful chance to display, teach and do their art for the enjoyment of many, many people!

The second was the Grand Pageant and Cloved Orange Ball, our premier dance event dedicated to the finer things in life, filled with panache and gallantry! We had many excellent classes in dance, heraldry, cooking, bardic arts, and costuming. We had a number of competitions to challenge ourselves to always improve our skills and to show the ever increasing glory of our folk and lands.

The winter season is often a time to stay indoors and practice some of the quiet(er) arts. These may range from perfecting your stitching and costuming skills to learning a new song or dance to show off at court and ball. Or it may mean drooling over the mail order catalogues for your garden and yard...(Dame Megan says 'Your garden never looks quite so good as it does in your January dreams of it!!) Some of us will be receiving our poultry catalogues soon!!!

Crystal Ball, the premier Middle Kingdom dance event -- indeed world renowned! -- will be the 13-14th of November in the Barony of Shattered Crystal/ Belleville Ill... I know there will be several Sternfelders heading west to meet our friends on the field and dance floor!

Some of our local folk will be teaching at Toys for Tots St. Nicholas Tourney hosted by our neighboring Barony of White Waters in New Carlisle, Indiana. Bring a toy to give to a child in need!

Ars Rustica, a local A&S group dedicated to period agriculture, will be meeting the third Sunday of November alongside the Cooks' Group at my house. Ars Rustica will be discussing plans for contributing to Heifer International® for our third annual livestock drive for that charitable organization. The Cooks' Group will be discussing and making sausage from both pork and lamb!

'Til next month, I remain in Service to the Pursuit of knowledge,  
**ABOT JOHANN VON METTEN, OL**



interesting things and spouting so much fascinating info! The newcomer may feel he/she can never measure up to an experienced member's level of skill or knowledge. Assure him/her that you started out as a bumbling, ignorant idiot too (okay, I'm paraphrasing a bit...!), but if you learned how to fight/how to spin/how to dance/etc, they can too!

### **If a new member approaches you**

When a new member's interest seems to be waning or if he/she seems reluctant to meet other people yet, I often tell them "Most everyone here likes to talk about what they're doing, so just ask when they don't appear to be busy. Or feel free to come find me again later." If someone you don't recognize approaches you with questions about the SCA or what you're doing, please treat him/her not as an interruption, but with the same courtesy and respect you would treat someone from the public at a demo. If appropriate, offer to talk to them after you're done with the next fight, after announcements, after you relay a message first (or whatever).

### **When you need to excuse yourself**

Too often, well-meaning members will say, "You should talk to John about fighting," but don't offer to introduce him/her to John, or "If you have any questions, just ask someone," and then walk away. But new people often don't know what questions to ask, are shy to introduce themselves, or are afraid to ask 'stupid questions.' When you want to go back to your business or talk to others, offer to introduce the new person to one of the other members or the Chatelaine before excusing yourself. Try to check back with the newcomer at the end of the meeting to see how they're doing or say goodbye. A familiar face with a known name may be a welcome sight!

### **Accidental blunders**

Maybe a long-time or former member reappears after a long absence. Maybe someone has just taken up fighting/fencing/archery/dancing – or a fighter/dancer/etc has had to give it up temporarily due to injury – so he/she is hanging out with different members for awhile. All of these people would be new faces to those who aren't used to seeing them, probably thought to be newcomers. That's why some members are loathe to start a conversation with "Are you new?" They don't want to risk what they see as a blunder or possibly offend someone. To hedge your bet, try one of these more neutral openings:

- "I don't think we've met yet. I'm \_\_\_\_\_."
- "I'm bad with names, but I think I've seen you around. I'm \_\_\_\_\_."
- Or simply "Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_."

You might think of talking to newcomers the same way we talk to the public at demos:

- Assume they know nothing about the SCA or living history groups;
- Assume they are at least somewhat interested or they wouldn't be there;
- Assume they don't know anyone in the group (unless you personally know otherwise);
- Treat them with courtesy and respect;
- Tell them something about whatever is going on at the moment;
- Encourage and answer questions.

### How to start

If you see someone you don't recognize standing around looking interested and/or confused, start with "Greetings, I'm \_\_\_\_\_" followed by "Can I answer some questions for you?" or "M'lady, are you familiar with the SCA?" or if relevant "M'lord, you look new here. I'm kind of new myself, but I'll answer what questions I can." Starting with "m'lord" or "m'lady" often brings a smile and sets a good tone for the conversation.

Ask how he/she discovered the SCA, why they came to this meeting/practice/ event, what they know about the SCA. These are good ways to start a conversation. Listen with courtesy and genuine interest. Inquire about their mundane hobbies and particular interests in medieval life to learn what they'd like to know more about in the SCA.

Explain whatever activities are going on and (if safe) invite the newcomer to participate.

Introduce the new person to some of your friends or to others present who have the same interests he/she does. The new person may not remember everyone next time, or vice-versa, but they can each say 'Oh yes; didn't we speak last week about...?' Invite someone else to join the conversation—especially helpful if you're a little shy yourself or really need to be somewhere else at the moment. If the newcomer hasn't already met the Chatelaine, introduce them.

On the flip side, keep in mind that a newcomer may suffer from overload. There is so much to see and learn! There are so many people doing so many

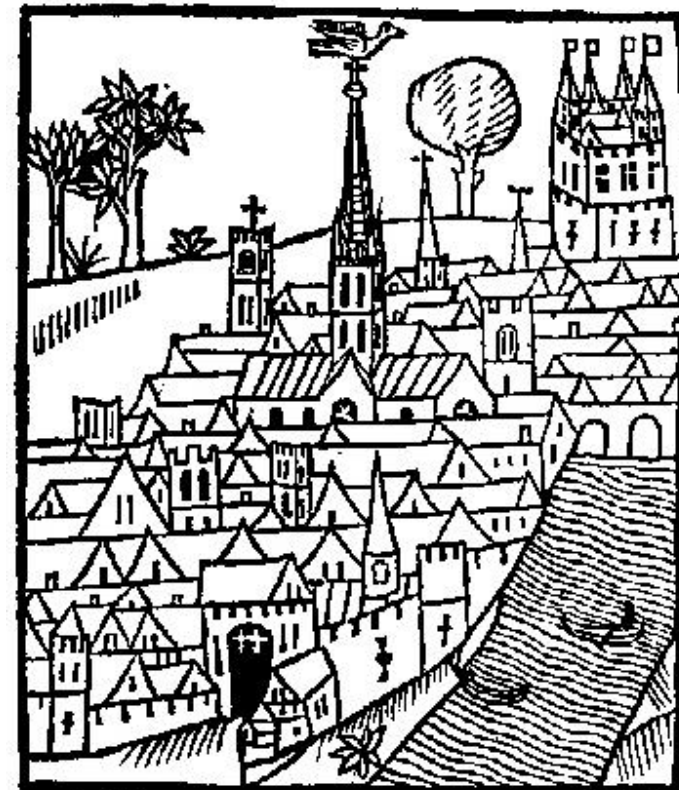
## FROM THE CHRONICLER



I am stepping down as Chronicler. I have enjoyed serving as your Chronicler, but after two years in the office and adding the role of regional Chatelaine, I have decided it was time for a change.

Lady Odile has graciously thrown her chapeau into the ring. I am sure she will do an excellent job.

Merci beaucoup,  
**LADY ODETTE D'AMBOISE**



CHRONICLER CANDIDATE

Greetings, everyone!

As most of you have likely already heard (or certainly have, since you have this publication in your hand), THL Odette d'Amboise is planning to step down as Baronial Chronicler in the near future. As I've thrown my hand in the air as a candidate to succeed her, it seems an introduction is in order. Lady Odette has also requested that I publish a trial edition of the Star in order to get my feet wet, so I respectfully submit this November edition as a sample of my prospective work. Please consider it in conjunction with my background, which follows.

I've been active in this Barony since I found the SCA in February of 2005. In the time since then I've held a few offices: Exchequer for the Incipient Canton of Steorra Holt, Property Master for Sternfeld, and I am currently the Baronial Roster Clerk as well. I also make an effort to volunteer at our local events, usually as a feast server, at a troll shift, or anywhere else I'm needed. My interests within the SCA are pretty diverse, but include such things as costuming (lots, mostly 14th century French and early period Danish), literature, gaming, archery (when I find time for it), heavy combat (not so much these days; hopefully soon), spinning, embroidery, gardening, and animal husbandry (if I ever finish the chicken coop). I do not have a publishing background, but I do have a major in English and a broad familiarity with the written word. Also, I have an uncanny knack with a calendar, will send out reminders to officers like clockwork, and am willing to publish my own appalling Italian sonnets if necessary -- but my hope is to flesh out the pages of our wee publication with some projects I've been scheming, to hopefully keep my poetry off the pages. Truly, nobody wants that.

The other thing nobody wants is for nobody to turn up at Business Meeting to poll on this open position. So, please, come. I will thank you. Katrina will probably thank you too.

Yours in service,  
LADY ODILE DE BRIENNE

NEWCOMERS ARE NICE!

NEWCOMERS ARE NICE!

by Liesl von Metten\*

Newcomers are nice, once you get to know them — but you have to get to know them first, which means you have to *talk* to them. ‘Making nice’ with people you don’t know can be unpleasant for some people. (Me, I dread ‘small talk!’) But remember that all your friends were strangers to you at some point, and we were all newcomers to the SCA at one time. Somehow, we not only survived the “newbie” phase, we became comfortable, confident, experienced members. How did that happen? Probably because you felt (and still feel) welcomed and valued by other members.

Talking to newcomers is vital

Think back (maybe waaaaaaay back!) to when you were new in the SCA, when you may have felt somewhat like an ‘outsider’ to this sage group that knew so much you didn’t know, and remember how good it felt for someone to take the initiative to say ‘Hi, I’m Joe. Nice to meet you.’ or ‘Kate, we missed seeing you last week!’ It’s as simple as that. Some new people come with friends who are already members, so they have a ready contact to help introduce and guide them into the group. But others come on their own, knowing no one, but interested and brave enough to come alone, hoping the SCA and Sternfeld will be a good experience...

As with any volunteer group, as at any club or party, being left alone and ignored is the best way to lose people and make them never want to return. Even those who come with friends like to be noticed by others; they need to be acknowledged and welcomed as part of the group. Greeting someone is an easy way to provide that simple recognition. Personal contact from you, the established member, is vital to their comfort and confidence in a strange environment and their continued participation on their way to become active members. Veteran members can provide the recognition all newcomers need to be glad they came. This is known as courtesy – one of the key points of chivalry – and it’s practiced by dukes as well as the general populace.

\*Title and concept based on an article by Alys Katharine. Reproduction of *this* article strictly prohibited, in deference to Alys Katherine’s original material, which can be found at <http://www.sca.org/officers/chatelain/pdf/NewcomersAreNice.pdf>.





## meet the Runaway

### AN INTERVIEW WITH ODILE DE BRIENNE

*In what I'm hoping will be a new feature, I am going to attempt a series of interviews of the personae of members of our Barony. We know each other... but how much do you **really** know about your friend's persona?*

*For my pilot interview, who better to interview than... myself? Odile, that is, who as you may discover, is both like me, and... not. Let the madness ensue.*

#### **Tell me something about where you live.**

Well, I was born in Brienne-le-Château, which is north-east of Troyes. I lived there until I was twenty; my father holds lands for Count Gautier, as well as serving in his army. When I was twenty I... well, I ran away, to avoid a marriage that I thought I could not stand. I was young and imprudent, and it was a great sin. Through the grace of God I came to this place, Denmark, and the lord here graciously took me in, and gave me in marriage to one of his warlords. He is a good man, but this country is not like home at all. They worship pagan gods and their clothes are very loose.

#### **So you left your family behind in France?**

Oui. My mother is dead, and my father is often gone in the Count's service, but I have four brothers yet living, as I know: Andriu, David, Remon, and Gefroy. Andriu goes in service with my father, and Remon with him, while David has taken vows at the Benedictine Abbey in Troyes. Gefroy I believe yet to be at home.

#### **What about your brother Henri?**

Henri... oh, of course, Henri. I had forgotten. He is another brother. I... listen, we had better speak of this no more.

*You, too, can arrange for your persona to speak live to the press! All levels of depth, from the anachronistic to the thoroughly-researched, are welcome. Also, it's fun! Send word to Lady Odile if you would like to be featured in an interview.*



## FROM THE PROPERTY MASTER

By Christmas time, I plan on having the list of items up for review with pictures and descriptions. This should make it easier to plan on events and station changes within the Barony.

Our next event where the trailer will be used is Better War Through Archery. I would encourage the Autocrat to make plans ahead of time for the loading of the trailer, transportation to and from, and unloading. This would include archery equipment, kitchen equipment for feast and anything else needed. The Feast-o-crat, at the very least, should attend the loading as only they would know for sure what would be needed in the way of serving dishes and such. Too many times, the word is "Take everything", and not even 1/2 is used. This is just more chance for breakage and lost items. A count of how many of each item should be listed out and only those items needed should be loaded.

The driveway at Leandra's is in need of care. There is a sharper drop-off where they redid the road and if anyone has a donation of blacktop, it would help ease the trailer being pulled in and out.

In Service,  
**LADY TALIA**



## FROM DANCE PRACTICE

While our numbers are still small, dance has been going well. We've been using the nights where we don't have many people to work on trying new dances we aren't as familiar with. On the nights where we do have more people we have a lot of fun doing the dances that aren't as common because they need bigger sets. Either way we're having a lot of fun. To any newcomers you do not need any prior experience to come dance with us. There are several good dance teachers in the Barony and we will always give instruction before each dance if you are unfamiliar with it. As the tables at the new practice site (St. Timothy's) are much easier to move than at the previous site we have a lot more usable dance space. Join us the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and help us try to fill it up!

**LORD BJORN ARNALDSSON**



## HOLIDAY COURT!

This winter's Baronial Holiday Court is tentatively scheduled to be held on January 9, 2010, at the Tipton County 4-H Fairgrounds (**1200 S. Main Street, Tipton, IN** – the same site as Grand Pageant). Lord Morvran Bettws ab Thomas of Cardiff is autocratting.

Currently the schedule is roughly laid out with the morning (9:00 – 12:00) being set aside for a Baronial Althing to set the 2010 budget and deal with other business, with the afternoon and evening (12:00 – 9:00 or 10:00) filled with an assortment of festivities and revelry.

Planned activities for the day (post-Althing) include rattan and rapier combat and championships, round-table discussions on the Peerages, dancing, displays of households active in the Barony, an A&S championship, a bardic circle, and A&S workshops on lucet, drop spinning, narrow weaving (inkle and tablet), farming, food and drink, garb 101, hand sewing, needlework & beading, herbs & essential oils. Both a Baroness' High Tea and a Newcomer's Tea are also being held this year, with beverages (hot and iced tea, as well as lemonade) provided by the Barony.

As is customary, dinner will be a pitch-in, with the Barony providing beef, chicken, and scalloped potatoes. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish for dinner, dessert, and/or finger foods for the afternoon tea.

As always, your help makes our events run. Morvran can use help with set-up, tear-down, teaching the A&S workshops, marshaling, dancing, heraldic consultations, children's activities, leading dancing, and really, any area of the event. If you would like to volunteer to fill a slot or organize an activity, please let him know as soon as possible!

*As a note— Holiday Court is a Baronial-level event, meaning that it is a local event meant as a gathering for our Barony and a chance to enjoy each other in a somewhat more relaxed setting than an ordinary event. It isn't publicized on the Kingdom Calendar, and there's no charge for admission, unlike a regular event. It is customary to come in garb, and Their Excellencies will probably hold a Baronial Court, but it is on a smaller scale than a Kingdom-level event. We would love to see all of you there.*



## BETTER WAR THROUGH ARCHERY NEEDS YOU!

Sternfeld's next big event is Better War Through Archery, January 30, 2010.

*New site this year--fully climate-controlled, all heated, under one roof, no salamander fumes, no barns, no muddy paths, comfy and toasty and dry all day long! (And the people said, hoobah!)*

We'll be at the National Guard Armory just off I-70 & Holt Rd--easy access from everywhere!

Liesl and Brendan are heading up efforts, and *we need volunteers for everything*, especially working troll (registration), site set-up and clean-up, feast prep and kitchen clean-up, feast servers, and hopefully some children's activities. (If you've been following recent discussions on the list, don't worry; it's a small feast.)

Besides a variety of intriguing archery shoots devised by Bran and cohorts, the day will include lunch for a pittance, merchants, court (prizes, recognition, accolades, and devilish good fun), as well as the good company of your fellow SCAdians from near and far.

Unfortunately, we don't have room for fighters or fencers to practice their skills at this event--but that just means this is a great opportunity to show off your chivalry rather than your prowess!\*

We know the weather can be iffy in January, but we're 'shooting' for a small, cozy event anyway. We hope you'll plan to join us for the day and give an hour or two of your time to make our guests feel welcome.

\*Actually, if the day turns out to be unseasonably mild, there is lawn space available for pick-up practices. Hey, it *could* happen...

